Amendments to the Claims:

All presently pending claims are reproduced below.

1. (Currently Amended) A device for determining [[the]] a pressure exerted within an anatomical structure, said device comprising:

a) a sensor comprising an encapsulated member having (i) a membrane enclosing an encapsulated volume therewithin and (ii) a body of supportive material disposed within the membrane that substantially fills and defines the encapsulated volume, the sensor having a link extending therefrom, said sensor being positionable within [[an]] the anatomical structure, said sensor being operative to compress against said anatomical structure, measure pressure exerted within said anatomical structure, produce a signal representative of the pressure exerted within said anatomical structure and transmit said signal through said link; and

b) a monitor coupled to said link for receiving said signal generated by said sensor, said monitor being operative to provide a quantifiable indication of the compressive force exerted within said anatomical structure.

2. (Withdrawn) The device of Claim 1 wherein said sensor comprises an encapsulated lattice structure.

3. (Withdrawn) The device of Claim 2 wherein said lattice structure is operative to selectively collapse upon application of a threshold compressive force applied externally upon said lattice structure.

4. (Withdrawn) The device of Claim 3 wherein said lattice structure is operative to incrementally collapse such that the volume therewithin is caused to incrementally decrease upon application of incrementally increasing pressure beyond said threshold pressure upon said exterior of said lattice structure such that said incremental collapse within said lattice corresponds to an incremental increase in pressure applied externally thereabout.

5. (Withdrawn) The device of Claim 2 wherein said lattice structure is formed from a plastic material.

6. (Previously Presented) The device of Claim 1 wherein the supportive material is compressive foam disposed within the encapsulated member, said compressive foam being operatively transitional between a first expansive state when a first baseline amount of pressure is applied thereto and a second compressed state whereby said foam compresses to assume a configuration having a reduced volume corresponding to a second higher amount of pressure applied upon the external surface of said encapsulated member.

7. (Withdrawn) The device of Claim 2 wherein said lattice structure is operatively transitional between a first non-collapsed configuration such that said lattice structure defines a predetermined volume and a second collapsed configuration whereby said lattice structure defines a volume that is less than said predetermined volume maintained in said first configuration.

8. (Previously Presented) The device of Claim 6 wherein said foam is operative to incrementally decrease in volume when a correspondingly incremental increase in pressure is applied to the external surface of said encapsulated member.

9. (Withdrawn) The device of Claim 2 wherein said lattice structure is encapsulated within a balloon-type sack.

10. (Withdrawn) The device of Claim 7 wherein said member is encapsulated within a balloon-type sack.

11. (Currently Amended) A device for determining [[the]] an amount of pressure exerted between a first anatomical structure and a second anatomical structure, said device comprising:

a) a sensor configured to be interposed between said first and second anatomical structures, said sensor comprising an encapsulated member having (i) a membrane enclosing an encapsulated volume therewithin and (ii) a body of supportive material disposed within the membrane that substantially fills and defines the encapsulated volume, the sensor having a link extending therefrom, said sensor being ~~interposable between and~~ compressible against said first anatomical structure and said second anatomical structure, wherein said sensor is ~~being~~ operative to measure the compressive force exerted between said first anatomical structure and said second anatomical structure, produce a signal representative of the compressive force and transmit said signal through said link; and

b) a monitor coupled to said link for receiving said signal generated by said sensor, said monitor being operative to provide a quantifiable indication of the compressive force between said first anatomical structure and said second anatomical structure.

12. (Withdrawn) The device of Claim 11 wherein said sensor comprises an encapsulated lattice structure.

13. (Withdrawn) The device of Claim 12 wherein said lattice structure is operative to selectively collapse upon application of a threshold compressive force applied externally upon said lattice structure.

14. (Withdrawn) The device of Claim 13 wherein said lattice structure is operative to incrementally collapse such that the volume therewithin is caused to incrementally decrease upon application of incrementally increasing pressure beyond said threshold pressure upon said

exterior of said lattice structure such that said incremental collapse within said lattice corresponds to an incremental increase in pressure applied externally thereabout.

15. (Withdrawn) The device of Claim 12 wherein said lattice structure is formed from a plastic material.

16. (Previously Presented) The device of Claim 11 wherein the supportive material is compressive foam disposed within the encapsulated member, said compressive foam being operatively transitional between a first expansive state when a first baseline amount of pressure is applied thereto and a second compressed state whereby said foam compresses to assume a configuration having a reduced volume corresponding to a second higher amount of pressure applied upon the external surface of said encapsulated member.

17. (Withdrawn) The device of Claim 12 wherein said lattice structure is operatively transitional between a first non-collapsed configuration such that said lattice structure defines a predetermined volume and a second collapsed configuration whereby said lattice structure defines a volume that is less than said predetermined volume maintained in said first configuration.

18. (Previously Presented) The device of Claim 16 wherein said foam is operative to incrementally decrease in volume when a correspondingly incremental increase in pressure is applied to the external surface of said member.

19. (Withdrawn) The device of Claim 12 wherein said lattice structure is encapsulated within a balloon-type sack.

20. (Withdrawn) The device of Claim 17 wherein said member is encapsulated within a balloon-type sack.

21. (Withdrawn) A method for measuring and monitoring the amount of pressure within an anatomical structure:

a) providing a sensor comprising an encapsulated member having a supportive material disposed therewithin, the sensor having a link extending therefrom, said sensor being positionable within and compressible against said anatomical structure, said sensor being operative to measure pressure exerted within said anatomical structure, produce a signal representative of the degree of pressure inside said anatomical structure and transmit said signal through said link;

b) providing a monitor, said monitor being coupled to said link and operative to provide a quantifiable indication of the degree of pressure inside said anatomical structure as indicated by said signal generated by said sensor;

c) inserting said sensor within said anatomical structure; and

d) monitoring said signal generated by said sensor positioned in step (c) by said monitor provided in step (b).

22. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 21 wherein in step (a), said encapsulated member has an internal pressure sensor such that in use, when an increase in pressure is applied externally to said encapsulated member, said encapsulated member generates a signal corresponding to the amount of pressure applied externally to said encapsulated member.

23. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 21 wherein in step (a), said encapsulated member has an internal volume sensor such that in use, when an increase in pressure is applied externally to said encapsulated member, said encapsulated member generates a signal corresponding to the amount of volumetric space within said encapsulated member.

24. (Withdrawn) A method for measuring and monitoring the amount of pressure exerted between a first anatomical structure and a second anatomical structure comprising the steps:

a) providing a sensor comprising an encapsulated member having a supportive material disposed therewithin, the sensor having a link extending therefrom, said sensor being interposable between and compressible against said first anatomical structure and said second anatomical structure, said sensor being operative to measure the degree of compressive force exerted between said first anatomical structure and said second anatomical structure and produce a signal representative of the compressive force;

b) providing a monitor, said monitor being coupled to said sensor and operative to provide a quantifiable indication of the degree of compressive force exerted between said first anatomical structure and said second anatomical structure as indicated by said signal generated by said sensor and transmit said signal through said link;

c) interposing said sensor between said first anatomical structure and said anatomical structure; and

d) monitoring said signal generated by said sensor positioned in step (c) by said monitor provided in step (b).

25. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 24 wherein in step (a), said encapsulated member is interposable between said first anatomical structure and said second anatomical structure, said encapsulated member having an internal pressure sensor such that in use, when an increase in pressure is applied externally to said encapsulated member, said encapsulated member generates a signal corresponding to the amount of pressure applied externally to said encapsulated member.

26. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 24 wherein in step (a), said encapsulated member is interposable between said first anatomical structure and said second anatomical structure, said encapsulated member having an internal volume sensor such that in use, when an increase in pressure is applied externally to said encapsulated member, said encapsulated member generates a signal corresponding to the amount of volumetric space occupied by said encapsulated member.

27. (Withdrawn) A method for measuring and monitoring the amount of pressure exerted between a first anatomical structure and a second anatomical structure comprising the steps:

a) providing a fluid-filled encapsulated member having a link extending therefrom, said encapsulated member being interposable between and compressible against said first anatomical structure and said second anatomical structure, said encapsulated member being operative to measure the degree of compressive force exerted between said first anatomical structure and said second anatomical structure and produce a signal representative of the compressive force;

b) providing a monitor, said monitor being coupled to said encapsulated member and operative to provide a quantifiable indication of the degree of compressive force exerted between said first anatomical structure and said second anatomical structure as indicated by said signal generated by said sensor and transmit said signal through said link;

c) interposing said encapsulated member between said first anatomical structure and said anatomical structure; and

d) monitoring said signal generated by said encapsulated member positioned in step (c) by said monitor provided in step (b).

28. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 27 wherein in step (a), said fluid-filled encapsulated member is interposable between said first and second anatomical structures, said encapsulated member having an internal pressure sensor such that in use, when an increase in pressure is applied externally to said encapsulated member, said encapsulated member generates a signal corresponding to the amount of pressure applied externally to said encapsulated member.

29. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 27 wherein in step (a), said fluid-filled encapsulated member is interposable between said first and second anatomical structures, said encapsulated member having an internal volume sensor such that in use, when an increase in pressure is applied externally to said encapsulated member, said encapsulated member generates

a signal corresponding to the amount of volumetric space occupied by said encapsulated member.

30. (Currently Amended) A device for determining [[the]] a pressure exerted within an anatomical structure, said device comprising:

a sensor comprising an encapsulated member having (i) a membrane enclosing an encapsulated volume therewithin and (ii) a body of supportive material disposed within the membrane that substantially fills and defines the encapsulated volume, the sensor being positionable within an anatomical structure, wherein said sensor is ~~being~~ operative to compress against said anatomical structure, measure pressure exerted within said anatomical structure, and produce a signal representative of the pressure exerted within said anatomical structure,

wherein said sensor is adapted to be coupled to a monitor for receiving said signal generated by said sensor, said monitor being operative to provide a quantifiable indication of the compression force exerted within said anatomical structure.

31. (New) A device for determining an amount of pressure exerted between a first anatomical structure and a second anatomical structure, said device comprising:

a sensor configured to be interposed between said first and second anatomical structures, said sensor comprising an encapsulated member having (i) a membrane enclosing an encapsulated volume therewithin and (ii) a body of supportive material disposed within the membrane that substantially fills and defines the encapsulated volume, said sensor being compressible against said first anatomical structure and said second anatomical structure, wherein said sensor is operative to measure the compressive force exerted between said first anatomical

structure and said second anatomical structure, and produce a signal representative of the compressive force,

wherein said sensor is adapted to be coupled to a monitor for receiving said signal generated by said sensor, said monitor being operative to provide a quantifiable indication of the compressive force between said first anatomical structure and said second anatomical structure.